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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland
SUBJECT Merger of PPS and PPR

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The merger of the PPS and PPR was to have been effected in September 1948. It had to be delayed again, apparently because the leaders were not ready to clean house in the PPS. When the two parties do merge, many groups of workers will quit the PPS, but the intelligentsia and employees will not be able to do so as it would lose them their jobs. The plans for merger foresee this penalty. Those who do not report that they have left the PPS will automatically become members of the new party. Among the PPS it is being said that about 500 thousand workers will quit and refuse to join the new organization. Actually, these workers do not risk anything by so doing; their excuse will be that they do not want to pay dues, and do not wish to partake in politics.
2. Mass joining of the PPR has been noticed lately. It now appears also that many had already joined in secret. The public was astonished to learn that the well-known journalist of the Kurier Warszawski, Trzebinski, who died not long ago, was a PPR member from the first day of Soviet occupation of Warsaw, and that he was very active and influential in the party. PPR leaders and delegates from other cities attended his funeral.

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